Met Office

NEWS

Met Office Climate Programme delivered almost £2 billion in economic value for the UK

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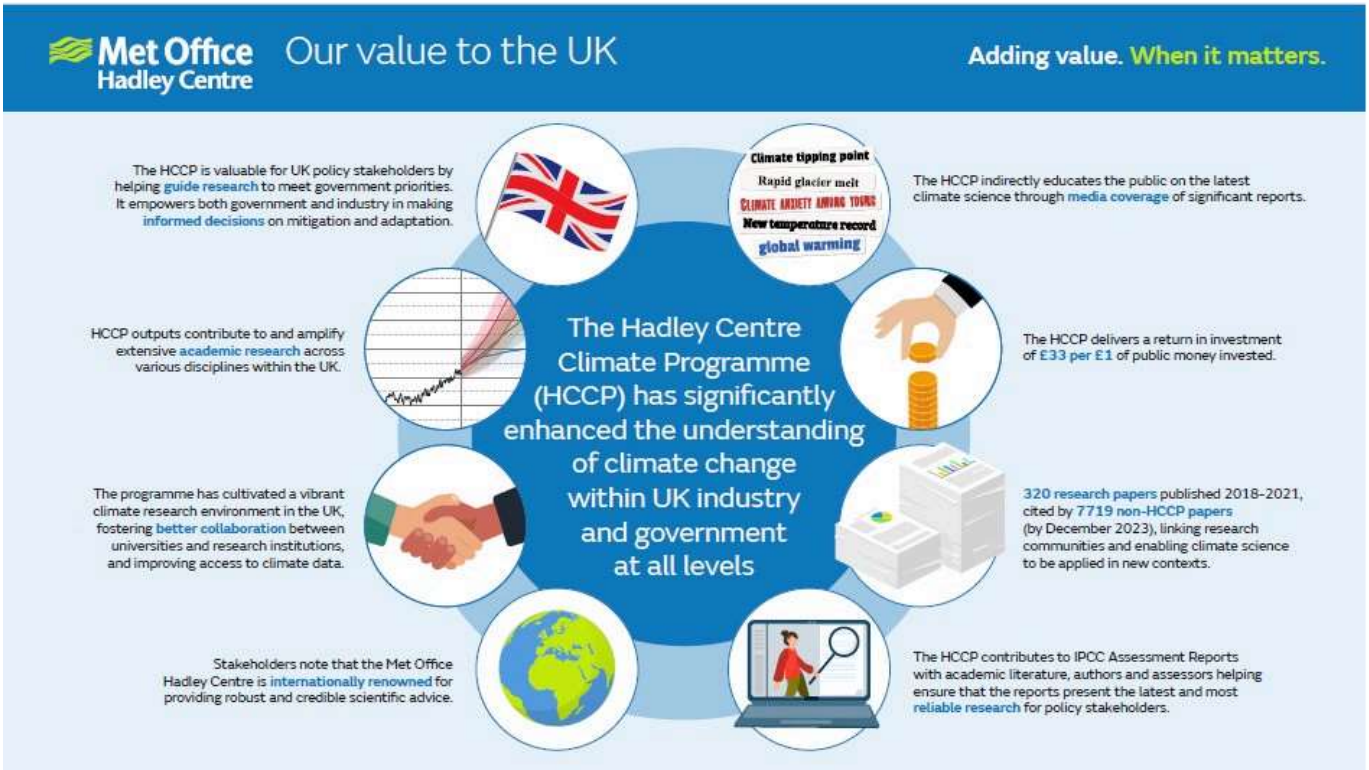
The Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme (HCCP) returned £33 for every £1 invested, according to a recent value-for-money analysis into the economic benefits of the 2018 to 2021 phase of the programme.

The Met Office Hadley Centre is a world leading climate research centre dedicated to advancing the understanding of climate change and its far-reaching impacts. This latest evaluation estimated that the HCCP *has shown an exceptional return on investment* with £1.9 billion worth of benefits to the UK economy following a government expenditure of £57.6 million.

As well as highlighting the financial return, the independent analysis also showed that the work of the HCCP has significantly deepened the understanding of climate change at all levels of UK industry and government and bolstered the UK's status as a global leader in climate science. It has also fostered collaboration between universities and research institutions and improved access to climate data.


Met Office Hadley Centre
Our value to the UK
Adding value. When it matters.
The HCCP is valuable for UK policy stakeholders by helping guide research to meet government priorities. It empowers both government and industry in making informed decisions on mitigation and adaptation.
Climate tipping point
Rapid glacier melt
CLIMATE ANXIETY AMONG YOUNG
New temperature record
global warming
The HCCP indirectly educates the public on the latest climate science through media coverage of significant reports.
HCCP outputs contribute to and amplify extensive academic research across various disciplines within the UK.
The Hadley Centre Climate Programme (HCCP) has significantly enhanced the understanding of climate change within UK industry and government at all levels
The HCCP delivers a return in investment of £33 per £1 of public money invested.
The programme has cultivated a vibrant climate research environment in the UK, fostering better collaboration between universities and research institutions, and improving access to climate data.
320 research papers published 2018-2021, cited by 7719 non-HCCP papers (by December 2023), linking research communities and enabling climate science to be applied in new contexts.
Stakeholders note that the Met Office Hadley Centre is internationally renowned for providing robust and credible scientific advice.
The HCCP contributes to IPCC Assessment Reports with academic literature, authors and assessors helping ensure that the reports present the latest and most reliable research for policy stakeholders.

Director of the Met Office Hadley Centre, Professor Rowan Sutton, said; “The HCCP has shown an exceptional return on investment, and its rigorous analysis and cutting-edge research have been instrumental in informing UK adaptation and mitigation policies. By driving evidence-based decision-making, the programme has played a crucial role in the drive towards a resilient and sustainable future amidst the challenges of climate change.

“Alongside our world leading science, we are working with stakeholders in government and the private sector to develop and deliver climate services to help them unlock the benefits of using Met Office and Hadley Centre research.”

Key highlights of the 2018-21 HCCP:

- The HCCP has been instrumental in aligning stakeholder research focus with government needs empowering both government and industries to make well-informed mitigation and adaptation decisions.
- HCCP outputs significantly contributed to and amplified extensive academic research across various disciplines within the UK.
- 320 scientific papers were published from 2018 to 2021. Through media coverage of significant reports, the HCCP indirectly educates the public on the latest climate science.

The vital work of the Climate Programme has continued since 2021. Among the programme’s many achievements, Met Office Hadley Centre scientists have pioneered work in attribution science, looking at the extent climate change is responsible for extreme weather. They have worked with partners to launch an online tool promoting the co-benefits of climate action, and provided scientifically robust and useful research, tools and guidance to help manage climate-related risks to UK plants.

A work plan has been set out for the Climate Programme through to 2027, with a focus on addressing emerging climate risks and supporting the UK’s net-zero transition. You can find out more here.

This is a crucial time for our planet and the continuing work of the HCCP enables local and national governments and industries to make informed decisions that future-proof the UK's infrastructure and economic assets.

This analysis was commissioned by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and carried out by London Economics and Frazer Nash Consultancy, contributing to the findings of a wider economic analysis of the Met Office published in September 2024.

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